

Rec'd PCT/PTO

15 MAR 2004

10/018639

Attorney's Docket No.

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL,
DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type: (check one)

- ☒ Original
☐ Supplemental
☐ Design

- ☒ National Stage PCT
☐ Divisional
☐ Continuation
☐ Continuation-in-Part (CIP)

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

NOTE: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A CONNECTION MEANS

the specification of which: (complete (a), (b) or (c))

(a) ☒ is attached hereto.

(b) ☐ was filed on _____ as
☐ Serial No. 09/_____ or
☐ Express Mail No. _____, as Serial No. not yet known
and was amended on _____. (If applicable)

(c) ☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/EP01/04776
filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____. (If any)
27.4.2001

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above, and that the filing of said specification, if heretofore filed, was authorized by me.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

CLAIM OF PRIORITY OF EARLIER FOREIGN APPLICATION(S) UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d)

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

(List prior foreign/PCT application(s) filed within 12 months (6 months for design) prior to this U.S. application.)

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

COUNTRY (orPCT)	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING (Day/Month/Year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC §119	
Germany	20007980.8	03.05.2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S) UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119(e)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(List prior U.S. provisional applications.)

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE (Day/Month/Year)

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER U.S./PCT APPLICATION(S) UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in such prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(List prior U.S. applications or PCT international applications designating the U.S. for benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120.)

U.S. APPLICATIONS

STATUS (Check One)

U.S. SERIAL NO.	U.S. FILING DATE (Day/Month/Year)	Patented	Pending	Abandoned
0 /		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0 /		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.

STATUS (Check One)

PCT APPLN. NO.	PCT FILING DATE (Day/Month/Year)	U.S. SERIAL NOS ASSIGNED (If any)	Patented	Pending	Abandoned
PCT/			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PCT/			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

35 USC 119 PRIORITY CLAIM, IF ANY, FOR ABOVE LISTED U.S./PCT APPLICATIONS

PRIORITY APPLICATION NO.	PRIORITY COUNTRY	FILING DATE (Day/Month/Year)	ISSUE DATE (Day/Month/Year)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith:

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Charles R. Hoffmann, Reg. No. 24,102; Ronald J. Baron, Reg. No. 29,281; Gerald T. Bodner, Reg. No. 30,449; Alan M. Sack, Reg. No. 31,874; A. Thomas Kammer, Reg. No. 28,226; R. Glenn Schroeder, Reg. No. 34,720; Glenn T. Henneberger, Reg. No. 36,074; Irving N. Feit, Reg. No. 28,601; Anthony E. Bennett, Reg. No. 40,910; Gregory W. Bachmann, Reg. No. 41,593; Steven T. Zuschlag, Reg. No. 43,309; Susan A. Sipos, Reg. No. 43,128; Kevin E. McDermott, Reg. No. 35,946; Rod S. Turner, Reg. No. 38,639; Robert C. Morriss, Reg. No. 42,910; Algis Anilionis, Reg. No. 36,995; Justin K. Holmes, Reg. No. 42,666; and Lauren T. Emr, Reg. No. 46,139 each of them of HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP, 6900 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, New York 11791; and Daniel A. Scola, Jr., Reg. No. 29,855; Salvatore J. Abbruzzese, Reg. No. 30,152; John Sopko, Reg. No. 41,321; Gloria K. Szakiel, Reg. No. 45,149; Mark E. Baron, Reg. No. 46,150; Ludomir A. Budzyn, Reg. No. 40,540; Christina L. Warrick, Reg. No. 45,690; Linda T. Parker, Reg. No. 46,046; Robert M. Rodrick, Reg. No. 27,086; Rohini K. Garg, Reg. No. 45,272 and Joy I. Farber, Reg. No. 44,103 each of them of HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP, 1055 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054.

PLEASE SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Charles R. Hoffmann, Esq.
HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791

PLEASE DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

(516) 822-3550

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

1-DD
Full Name of Sole or First Inventor:

Rankó Dezső

Country of Citizenship:

Hungary

Residence Address: Kecske utca 30., H-1034 Budapest, Hungary

NOX

Post Office Address:

same as above

Date: 19.12.2001

Inventor's signature

Rankó Dezső

Rankó Dezső

2-DD
Full Name of Second Joint Inventor:

József István

Country of Citizenship:

Hungary

Residence Address: Petrezselyem utca 10/B, H-1024 Budapest, Hungary

NOX

Post Office Address:

same as above

Date: 19.12.2001

Inventor's signature

József István

József István

Full Name of Third Joint Inventor:

Country of Citizenship:

Residence Address:

Post Office Address:

Date:

Inventor's signature

NOTE: All above spaces identifying inventors must be completed or deleted before any inventor executes this application